

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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### **OXLEY: CRAWFORD COUNTY UNDER ATTACK FROM DANIELS, GOP LAWMAKERS**

INDIANAPOLIS – Crawford County stands to lose millions of dollars in riverboat revenues under plans advocated by Gov. Mitch Daniels and Republicans who control the Legislature, according to State Rep. Dennie Oxley (D-English).

"Riverboat funding that has helped Crawford County address some long-standing needs is now under attack in both the Indiana House and Senate, with the apparent blessing of the governor," Oxley said. "If these plans are allowed to take effect, Crawford County would lose \$3 million in riverboat revenues."

Oxley said the attacks are coming on two different fronts.

"In the Indiana Senate, they are advancing a biennial state budget that would take \$75 million in casino revenues away from counties and use that amount to try to balance the budget," Oxley said. "Under agreements that have been in effect for several years, Crawford County receives \$3 million annually from the riverboats in Harrison and Switzerland Counties. That money would be gone under the budget passed by the Senate Republicans."

Then, the Republican majority on the House Ways and Means Committee has passed a plan that would take \$85 million in riverboat revenue from all counties that currently benefit from the boats. Those funds would then be shared equally by all counties that do not have riverboats.

"This plan is only marginally better because Crawford County would not lose its entire appropriation. It would still get \$1 million every year," Oxley said. "However, once again, this proposal would renege on long-standing agreements that were the result of bipartisan cooperation and deliberation."

"Officials in Crawford County were assured that they would benefit from the riverboats, even though they would not have them located in their areas," he added. "Now the Republican majorities in the House and Senate want to take away the riverboat money that rightfully belongs to the people of Crawford County."

To try to head off this money grab, Oxley and others tried to gain the governor's support, but were turned away.

"The governor said he would do nothing to stop these efforts, and he has not spoken out against these plans," Oxley said. "One certainly has to question the priorities of a governor who talks about helping local units of government, then turns around and does everything he can to place them in greater financial distress."

By receiving the riverboat allocations, Oxley said officials in Crawford County could address serious local needs.

"With this money, they were able to pave roads, ensure that residents receive adequate police protection, and keep the streets clear in the wintertime," Oxley said. "Without it, roads won't be paved, offices may have to close a few extra hours, and people might have to be laid off. We also are paying for our new courthouse and jail with this money."

"We have a governor who likes people to think that the buck stops at his desk, but he is pursuing policies that are doing a wonderful job of passing the buck on to local taxpayers. I will do everything in my power to protect the interests of Crawford County from the destructive policies pursued by the governor and his Republican allies in the Legislature," he concluded.